

ties will be undertaken in the following areas:—

- Condom Promotion
- Blood safety
- Control of sexually transmitted disease
- Information, education and communication
- Surveillance
- Case management
- Programme management

Criteria for Awarding Railway Contracts

* 194. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed new criteria for awarding railway contracts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any quota has been fixed for SC/ST persons in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Reservation of a quota of contracts for any specific section of the society by the Government agencies is not in the best

public interest nor is it an accepted policy.

[Translation]

Import of Wheat

* 195. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI PROBIN DEKA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import wheat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the countries from which wheat is proposed to be imported and the quantity and value thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check its likely adverse effect on the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government have decided to import one million tonnes of wheat with a view to increase its availability and to contain market prices. No contracts for import have, however, been signed so far.

(d) Imports are not likely to affect the domestic market adversely.

[English]

Eco-Task Forces

* 196. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing strength of the Eco-Task